

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 COME-00 /019 W

-----120519Z 012148 /13

R 111800Z FEB 77

FM AMCONSUL SALVADOR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0292

INFO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO

AMCONSUL SAO PAULO

AMCONSUL PORTO ALEGRE

AMCONSUL RECIFE

AMCONSUL BELEM

UNCLAS SALVADOR 0017

STATE FOR EB/CSB/OCR/ AND ARA/BR

COMMERCE FOR BIC/OED/MEPD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CLN BENS ETRN ELTN BR

SUBJECT: SALVADOR RAIL LOOP

REF: (A) SALVADOR 0083, 1976 (B) SALVADOR 0080, 1976

(C) SALVADOR 0072, 1976

SUMMARY: BAHIA STATE SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION SAYS DECISION HAS BEEN MADE TO SWITCH FROM LIGHT RAIL VEHICLE (I.E. PRE METRO OR TROLLEY) TO SIGNIFICANTLY MORE COSTLY HEAVY RAIL VEHICLE (I.E. FULL FLEDGED SUBWAY) FOR SALVADOR RAIL LOOP.

DESICION BASED ON ABILITY TO PURCHASE HEAVY RAIL VEHICLE MANUFACTURED IN BRAZIL WHEREAS TO MEET DEADLINE USING LIGHT RAIL VEHICLE WOULD REQUIRE IMPORTE OF ABOUT 30 CARS. THIS IS SIGNIFICANT ILLUSTRATION OF GOB WILLINGESS TO ABSORB HUGE OPPORTUNITY COSTS TO MEET BALANCE OF PAYMENTS CRITERIA
END SUMMARY.

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1. U IN INFORMAL MEETING BAHIA STATE SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION FIGUEREDO TOLD CONSUL THAT SALVADOR WILL OPT 3000 VOLTS HEAVY RAIL VEHICLE (I.E. FULL FLEDGED SUBWAY TRAIN), INSTEAD OF LIGHT RAIL VEHICLE (I.E. PRE METRO OR TROLLEY) OF ABOUT 650 VOLTS. REASON FOR THIS, HE SAID WAS BALANCE OF PAYMENTS CONSIDERATIONS THAT HEAVY RAIL VEHICLE IS PRODUCED IN BRAZIL

NOW. HE AFIRMS THAT DEADLINE TO OPEN RAIL LOOP IS STILL MARCH 1979. TO MEET DEADLINE USING THE LIGHT RAIL VEHICLE WHICH OTHERWISE IS PREFERRED FOR ITS LOWER COST, AND COST-BENEFIT SUITABILITY FOR METROPOLITAN SALVADOR'S PRESENT POPULATION OF ONE AND HALF MILLION, THE FIRST SET OF ABOUT 30 CARS WOULD HAVE TO BE IMPORTED.

2. FIGUEREDO ADDED THAT THE NEW PLANS WILL HAVE THE PART OF RAIL LOOP TO BE COMPLETED BY MARCH, 1979, EXTENDING BETWEEN THE PETROCHEMICAL POLE AT CAMACARI THROUGH THE INDUSTRIAL DISTRICT OF ARATU TO WITHIN SEVERAL BLOCKS OF THE MERCADO MODELO. THIS MEANS THAT THE RAIL WOULD PENETRATE THE DOWNTOWN AREA BY SEVERAL KILOMETERS FARTHER THAN IN PREVIOUS PLANS.

3. COMMENT: PLANS FOR SALVADOR RAIL LOOP HAVE CHANGED SEVERAL TIMES SO THIS MAY NOT BE THE FINAL PLAN. THAT BRAZILIAN GOVERNMENT IS AT PRESENT WILLING TO ACCEPT HUGE OPPORTUNITY COSTS OF INSTALLING THE HEAVY RAIL VEHICLE IS INTERESTING AS ANOTHER STRIKING INDICATIONS OF GOB PREOCCUPATION WITH ITS TRADE AND PAYMENTS BALANCES TO THE EXCLUSION OF OTHER ECONOMIC CONSIDERATIONS.
WHITNEY

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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